

National Incident Management System Overview



FEMA

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5

Directed Secretary, DHS to develop and administer:

1. National Incident Management System (NIMS)

- Core set of concepts, principles and terminology for incident command and multiagency coordination

2. National Response Plan (NRP)

- All-discipline, all-hazards plan
- *Initial National Response Plan* (INRP) created as an interim plan pending publication of the full NRP



National Incident Management System NIMS

“...a consistent nationwide approach for Federal, State, tribal, and local governments to work effectively and efficiently together to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity...”



FEMA

NIMS: What It Is / What It's Not

NIMS is...

- Core set of
 - Doctrine
 - Concepts
 - Principles
 - Terminology
 - Organizational processes
- Applicable to all hazards

NIMS is not...

- An operational incident management plan
- A resource allocation plan
- A terrorism / WMD-specific plan
- Designed to address international events

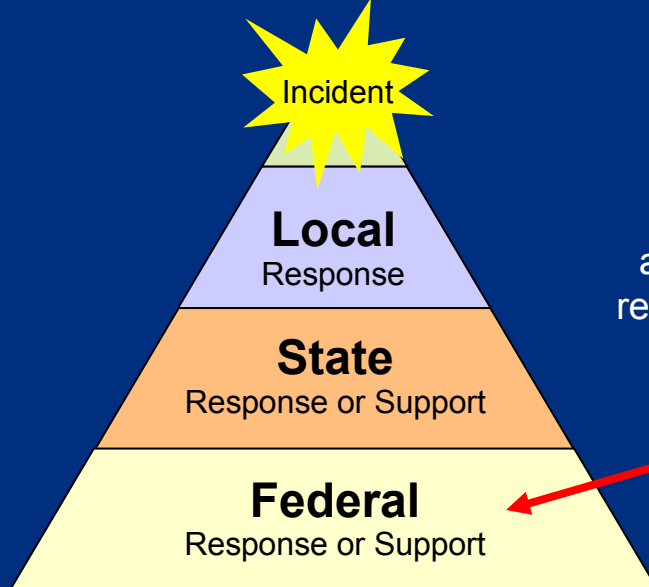


FEMA

Relationship: NIMS and NRP

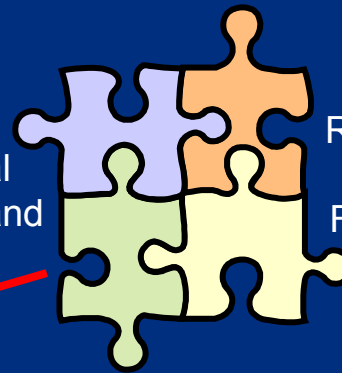
National Incident Management System (NIMS)

Used for all events



NIMS aligns command, control, organization structure, terminology, communication protocols, resources and resource-typing for synchronization of response efforts at all echelons of government

DHS integrates and applies Federal resources both pre and post incident



Resources, knowledge, and abilities from Federal departments & agencies

National Response Plan (NRP)

Activated for incidents of national significance



FEMA

Key Concepts / Ongoing Support

- Flexibility
 - Applicable regardless of incident cause, size, location, or complexity
- Standardization
 - Key to interoperability
- Ongoing support: NIMS Integration Center



NIMS Compliance

- All Federal department and agencies required to adopt
- DHS to publish Federal, state, local, tribal compliance criteria by October 2004
- State and local organizations must adopt NIMS to receive Federal preparedness assistance (grants, contracts, etc.) by FY 2005
- Adopting the basic tenets of the Incident Command System constitutes initial compliance
- Other components (e.g. data and communications systems interoperability) require additional NIMS development
- DHS to publish additional standards, guidelines, and compliance protocols



NIMS Components

1. Command and Management
2. Preparedness
3. Resource Management
4. Communications and Information Management
5. Supporting Technologies
6. Ongoing Management and Maintenance



FEMA

Command and Management

- Incident Command System
- Multiagency Coordination Systems
- Public Information Systems



Command and Management Incident Command System Concepts and Principles

- Most incidents are managed locally
- Field command and management functions must comply with standard set of ICS organizations, doctrine, and procedures
- Modular and scalable
- Interactive management components
- Enables diverse organizations to work together
 - Common terminology
 - Common standards
 - Common procedures
- Measurable objectives
- Minimal disruption to existing systems and processes
- User friendly and applicable across spectrum of emergency response and incident management disciplines



FEMA

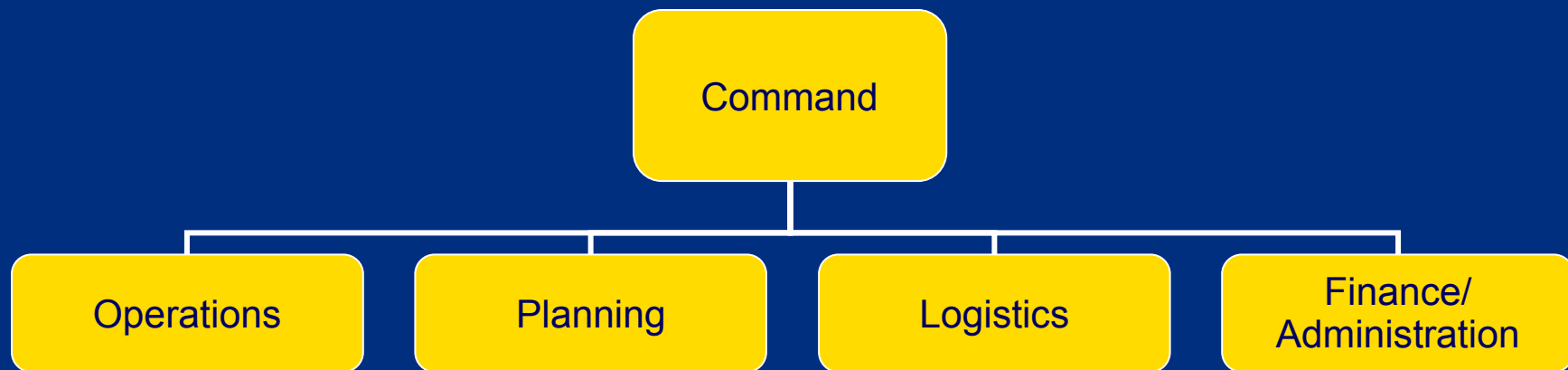
Command and Management Incident Command System Management Characteristics

- Common terminology
 - Organizational functions
 - Resource descriptions
 - Incident facilities
- Modular organization
- Management by objectives
- Incident action plan
- Manageable span of control
- Predesignated incident locations and facilities
- Comprehensive resource management
- Integrated communications
- Establishment and transfer of command
- Chain of command / unity of command
- Unified command
- Accountability
- Deployment
- Information and intelligence management



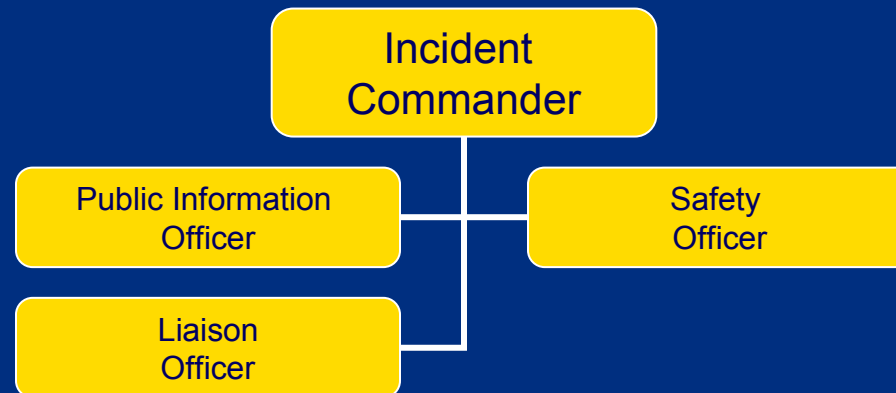
FEMA

Command and Management ICS Organization and Operations Command and General Staff



FEMA

Command and Management ICS Organization and Operations Command Staff



Incident commander and key activities not specifically identified in general staff functions



FEMA

Command and Management

ICS Organization and Operations

The Command Function

- **Single Command IC**

- Single jurisdiction
- No jurisdictional or functional agency overlaps
- IC is solely responsible for objectives and strategies

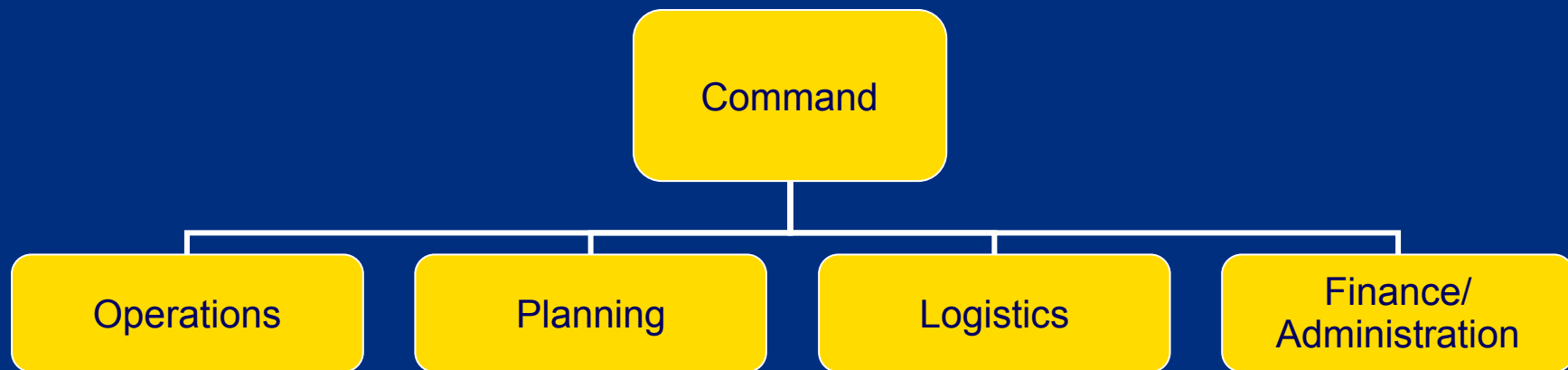
- **Unified Command**

- Multijurisdictional and/or multiagency event
- Includes all agencies with jurisdictional authority or functional responsibilities
- Participants represent different legal authorities and functional areas of responsibility
- Single planning process; single management structure
- Individuals designated by their jurisdictional authorities jointly determine objectives, plans, strategies and work together to execute integrated operations



FEMA

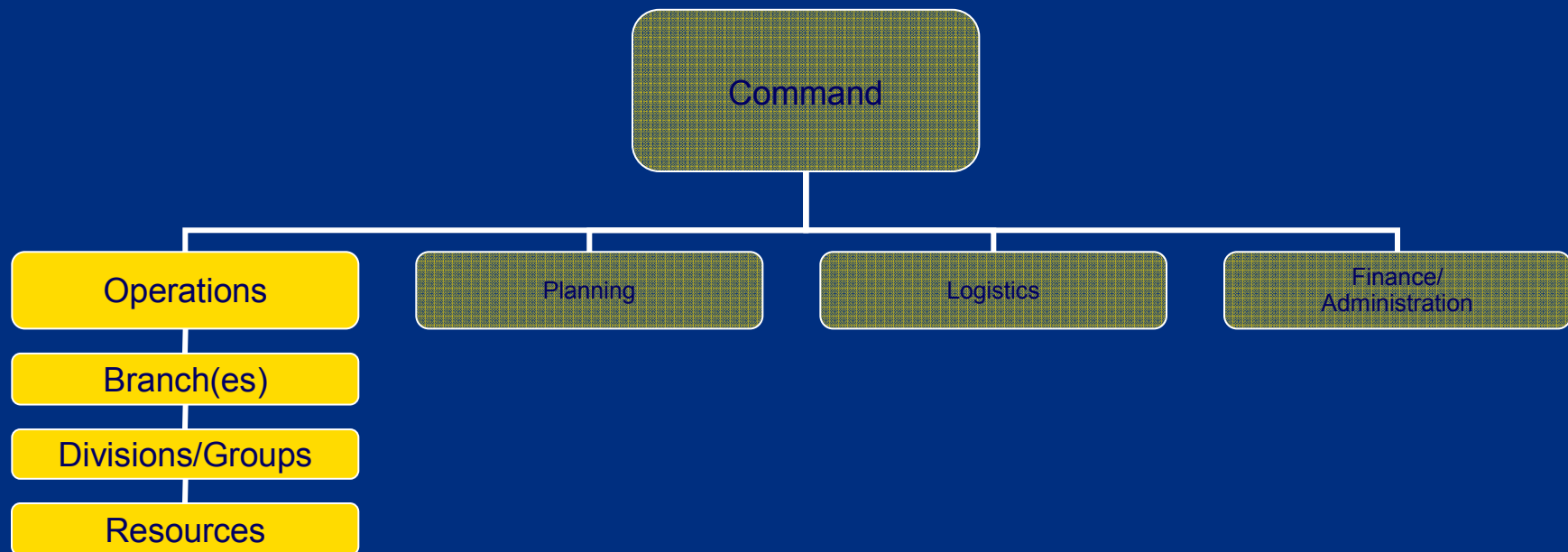
Command and Management ICS Organization and Operations Command and General Staff



Command and Management

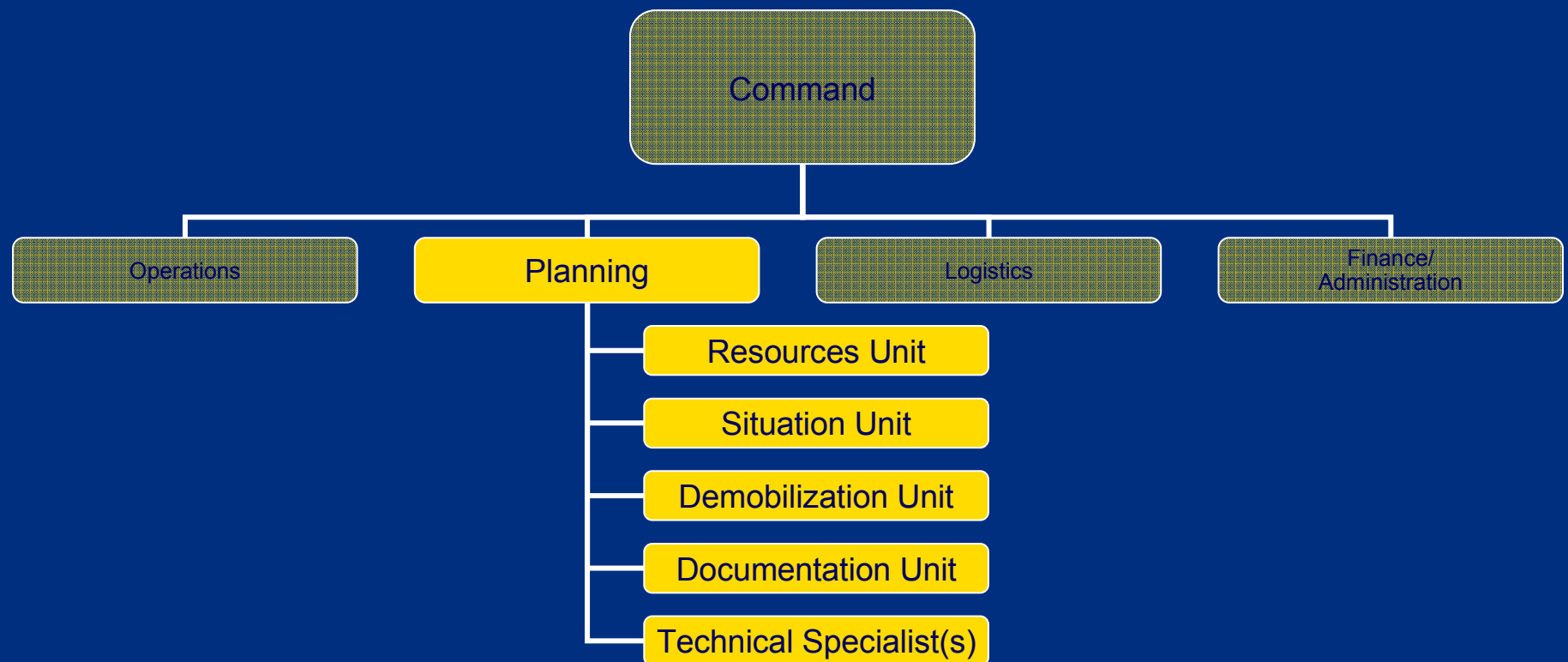
ICS Organization and Operations

Operations Section

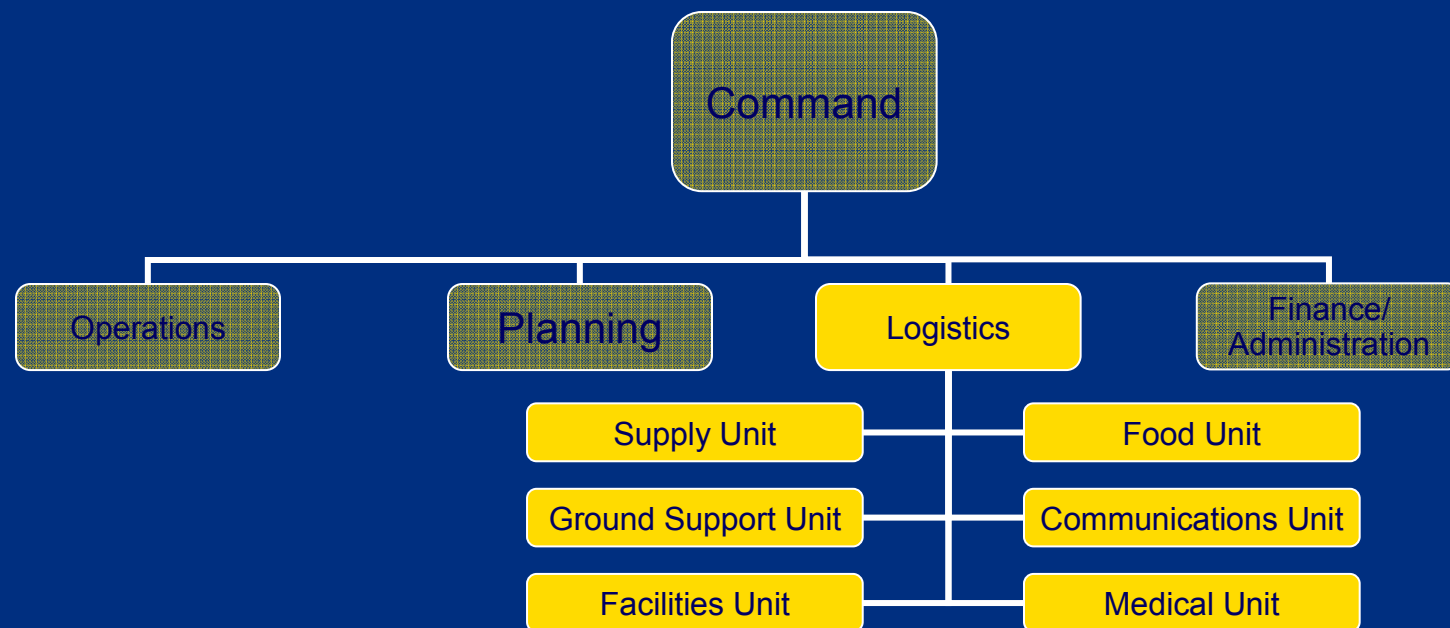


FEMA

Command and Management ICS Organization and Operations Planning Section



Command and Management ICS Organization and Operations Logistics Section

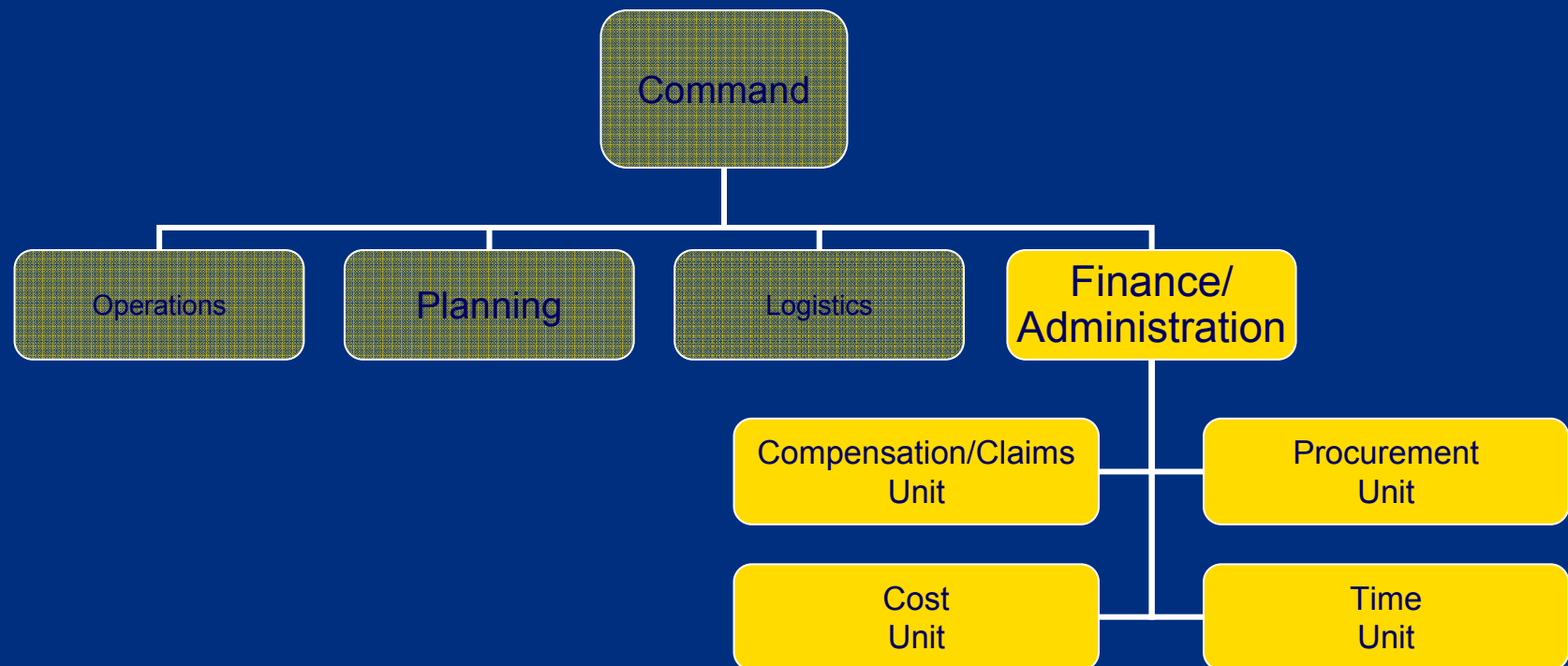


FEMA

Command and Management

ICS Organization and Operations

Finance/Administration Section



Command and Management Incident Command System Information and Intelligence Function

- National security and other classified info
- Other operational information
 - risk assessments
 - medical intelligence (i.e. surveillance)
 - weather information
 - geospatial data
 - structural designs
 - toxic contaminant levels
 - utilities and public works data



FEMA

Command and Management Incident Command System Information and Intelligence Function

May be organized

- Within the Command Staff
- Unit within Planning Section
- Branch within Operations Section
- Separate general staff section



Command and Management Incident Command System Area Command

- Activated when necessary
 - Complexity of the incident
 - Span-of-control considerations
- Oversees
 - Multiple incidents being handled by separate ICS organizations, or
 - A very large incident
 - Multiple ICS organizations
 - Not site specific
 - Geographically dispersed
 - Evolve over longer periods of time



FEMA

Command and Management Multiagency Coordination Systems Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

- The physical location for coordination of
 - Information
 - Resources
- On activation, communication and coordination must be established between EOC and the IC/UC



Command and Management

Multiagency Coordination Systems

Multiagency Coordination Entities

- Established when
 - Incidents cross disciplinary or jurisdictional boundaries
 - Involve complex incident management scenarios
- May be
 - Multiagency coordination groups
 - Crisis action teams
 - Policy committees
 - Incident management groups
 - Executive teams



Command and Management

Multiagency Coordination Systems

Multiagency Coordination Entities

Ensure that each agency provides

- Situational awareness
- Resource status information
- Establish priorities among incidents and/or area commands
- Acquire and allocate resources
- Anticipate future resource requirements
- Resolve policy issues
- Provide strategic coordination



FEMA

Command and Management Public Information Systems Principles

- PIO supports the Incident Command
- Public information functions must be coordinated and integrated
 - Across jurisdictions
 - Across functional agencies
 - Among Federal, state, local, and tribal partners
 - With private sector organizations
 - With nongovernmental organizations
- Participating organizations retain their independence

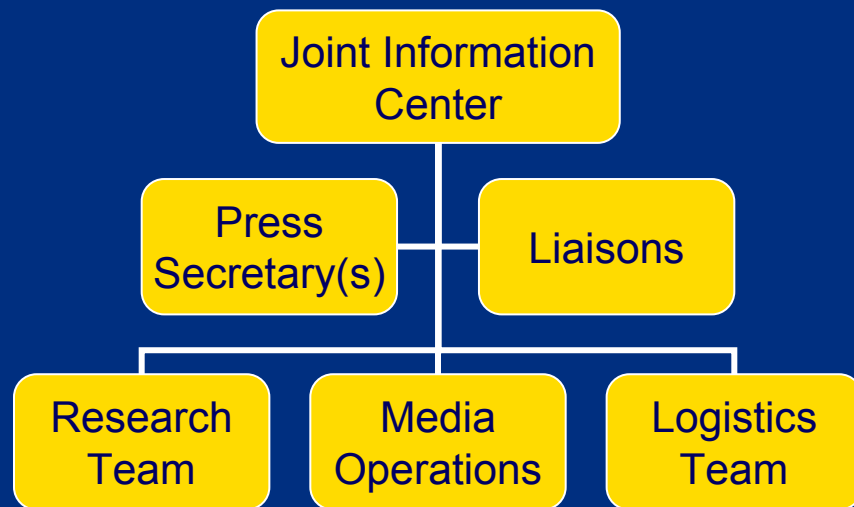


Command and Management Public Information Systems Joint Information System (JIS)

- Interagency coordination and integration
- Develop and deliver coordinated messages
- Support decision makers
- Characterized by
 - Flexibility
 - Modularity
 - Adaptability



Command and Management Public Information Systems Joint Information Center (JIC)



- Must include representatives from
 - Each jurisdiction
 - Each agency
- May include representatives from
 - The private sector
 - Nongovernmental organizations
- Single JIC location is preferable
- Must communicate and coordinate with
 - Other JICs
 - Other components of the ICS organization



Preparedness Concepts & Principles

- Continuous cycle of
 - Planning
 - Training
 - Equipping
 - Exercising
 - Evaluating
 - Taking action to correct and mitigate
- Requires a unified approach
- Processes for providing guidelines; protocols; standards for planning, training, qualifications and certification; and publication management
- *“National-level preparedness standards related to the NIMS will be maintained and managed through a multijurisdictional, multidiscipline center, using a collaborative process.”*
- Mitigation activities are important elements of preparedness



Preparedness Planning

- Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)
- Procedures
- Preparedness Plans—identifying and meeting training needs (based on expectations the EOP has outlined)
- Corrective Action and Mitigation Plans
- Recovery Plans



Preparedness Training and Exercises

- Appropriate training required for organizations and personnel
 - All levels of government
 - Private sector
 - Nongovernmental organizations
- NIMS Integration Center key to training and training standards



Preparedness Qualification and Certification

- National standards for emergency response personnel are basis for national preparedness
- Personnel who support interstate incidents must meet national qualification and certification standards



Preparedness Equipment Certification

- Equipment must perform to specific standards including interoperability
- National equipment standards, guidelines, and protocols and review of certified equipment lists done in coordination with
 - Federal, State, local, tribal, private sector and nongovernmental agencies
 - Standards-making, certifying, and accrediting organizations



Preparedness

Mutual Aid Agreements

Means for one jurisdiction to provide resources, facilities, services, and other required support to another jurisdiction during an incident. Such an agreement should include:

- Definitions
- Roles and responsibilities
- Procedures for requesting and providing assistance
- Procedures, authorities, and rules for payment and cost issues
- Notification procedures
- Communications protocols
- Relationships with other jurisdictional agreements
- Workers compensation, liability and immunity treatments
- Recognition of qualifications and certifications
- Sharing agreements



Preparedness Publications Management

- Naming and numbering conventions
- Review and certification of publications
- Publications control
- Identification of sources and suppliers
- Publication distribution
- Efforts managed by NIMS Integration Center



Resource Management Tasks

- Establishing systems for describing, inventorying, requesting, and tracking resources
- Activating those systems prior to, during, and after an incident
- Dispatching resources prior to, during, and after an incident
- Deactivating or recalling resources during or after incidents



Resource Management Processes

- Identifying and typing resources
- Certifying and credentialing personnel
- Inventorying resources
- Identifying resource requirements
- Ordering and acquiring resources
- Tracking and reporting resources
- Mobilizing resources
- Recovering resources
- Reimbursing



Communications & Information Management Concepts & Principles

- Common operating picture accessible across jurisdictions and functional agencies
 - Allows incident managers at all levels to make effective, consistent decisions expeditiously
 - Ensures consistency at all levels of incident management
- Common communications and data standards to assure accessibility and interoperability



Communications & Information Management

Managing Communications and Information

Incident Management Communications

- Jurisdictions must comply with national interoperable communications standards
- Incident communications
 - Follow ICS standards
 - Managed by IC
 - Common communications plan
 - Common terminology



FEMA

Communications & Information Management

Managing Communications and Information Information Management

- Policies
 - Preincident information
 - Information management
 - Networks
 - Technology
- Interoperability standards
 - Incident notification and situation support
 - Status reporting
 - Analytical data
 - Geospatial information
 - Wireless communications
 - Identification and authentication
 - National database of incident reports



Supporting Technologies Concepts & Principles

- Interoperability and compatibility
- Technology support
- Technology standards
- Broad-based requirements
- Strategic planning for research and development



Supporting Technologies Supporting Incident Management

- Operational scientific support
- Technical standards
 - Performance measurement
 - Consensus-based performance standards
 - Testing and evaluation
 - Technical guidelines for equipment training
- Solving operational problems through research and development



Ongoing Management & Maintenance Concepts and Principles

- All users and stakeholders participate in NIMS Integration Center activities
 - Various levels of government
 - Functional disciplines
 - Private entities
- Process relies on
 - Lessons learned from actual incidents and exercises
 - Best practices across jurisdictions and functional disciplines



Ongoing Management & Maintenance NIMS Integration Center Responsibilities

- National program for NIMS education and awareness
- General training requirements and national-level training standards and course curricula
- National standards, guidelines, and protocols for qualification and certification of emergency responder and incident management personnel
- Standards for performance, compatibility, and interoperability of incident management equipment
- National standards for resource typing
- Materials and standardized templates to support NIMS implementation and continuous refinement



For more information...

- Access the full, official NIMS document text at
<http://www.dhs.gov/interweb/assetlibrary/NIMS-90-web.pdf>
- Watch the Emergency Management Institute website for the NIMS Awareness web-based course which is scheduled for release by May 1, 2004.

<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/crslist.asp>



Emergency Management Institute
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Department of Homeland Security
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727

phone: 301-447-1286
fax: 301-447-1497
email: emi@dhs.gov
website: training.fema.gov/emiweb



FEMA